

In the claims

Please amend claims 13-14, cancel claims 15-17, and add new claims 18-22 as follows:

1. (Original) An implantable device comprising:
a stepper motor;
a moveable member, moveable by the stepper motor;
and
an oscillator,
wherein the oscillator is influenced by a signal derived from or supplied to the stepper motor to enable information on the moveable member to be fed back to an external controller by passive telemetry.
2. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein said signal is the electrical signal applied to one coil of the stepper motor.
3. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein said signal is the voltage induced in a secondary coil wrapped around a coil of the stepper motor.
4. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the oscillator drives an absorption modulator for use in feedback of said information by passive telemetry using FM-AM modulation.
5. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein said signal modifies the frequency of the oscillator.

6. (Original) A device according to claim 5, wherein said signal is used to modify one of:
at least one parameter of a resistor-capacitor network associated with the oscillator; and
at least one parameter of a crystal oscillator comprising the oscillator.

7. (Original) A device according to claim 1, further comprising a microcontroller for driving the stepper motor, wherein the oscillator also comprises the external oscillator for providing a clock signal to the microcontroller.

8. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein a reference position of the moveable member is detected by a detector which is used to influence the oscillator.

9. (Original) A device according to claim 8, wherein said detector causes a shift in frequency of said oscillator when the reference position is detected.

10. (Original) A device according to claim 8 wherein the detector is selected from the group consisting of: an electrical contact switch, a Hall-effect switch, a force-sensing resistor, a variable inductor, and a piezoresistive element.

11. (Original) A device according to claim 1, encapsulated into a biocompatible, non-metallic package.

12. (Original) A system comprising:
an implantable device according to claim 1, and
an external controller comprising means for counting
pulses in said signal feedback by passive telemetry for
determining the motion of the stepper motor and the position
of the moveable member.

13. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim
12, wherein said external controller further comprises means
for ~~analysing~~ analyzing the shape of said signal to detect
blockage of the stepper motor.

14. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim
1, ~~further comprising one selected from the group consisting
of:~~

~~a flow controller adjustable by said movable member
for blood flow regulation on native vessels or artificial
grafts;~~

~~gastric banding adjustable by said moveable member
for treatment of obesity;~~

~~oesophageal banding adjustable by said moveable
member for treatment of Gastro-Enteral Reflux Disease;~~

~~an artificial sphincter adjustable by said moveable
member for treatment of urinary incontinence;~~

~~an artificial sphincter adjustable by said moveable
member for treatment of faecal incontinence;~~

~~an artificial sphincter adjustable by said moveable
member for use following a colostomy;~~

~~an artificial sphincter adjustable by said moveable
member for use following an ileostomy; and~~

~~a drug infusion system adjustable by said moveable member,~~ wherein the moveable member is structured for constricting a passageway.

15.-17 (Canceled)

18. (New) A method for operating an implantable device comprising:

providing the implantable device with a stepper motor, a moveable member moveable by the stepper motor, and an oscillator;

providing an external controller; and

causing the oscillator to be influenced by a signal directly derived from or supplied to the stepper motor, thereby enabling information on the moveable member to be feedback to the external controller by passive telemetry.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein causing the oscillator to be influenced by a signal directly derived from or supplied to the stepper motor comprises deriving the signal as the electrical signal applied to one coil of the stepper motor or as the voltage induced in a secondary coil wrapped around a coil of the stepper motor.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising causing the oscillator to drive an absorption modulator providing feedback of the information by passive telemetry using FM-AM modulation.

21. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the frequency of the oscillator is modified by the signal.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the oscillator is further influenced by a detector detecting a reference position of the moveable member.